

St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui 31/01/2022



Kia ora whānau,

As we enter into the new school year, we look ahead with optimism for the many opportunities that lay before us. Undoubtedly, we will continue to be challenged by the impact of the global COVID pandemic; however, I have every faith that we will once again come together to face and work through whatever comes our way.

Year 7 Orientation Tuesday 1st February 11am-3.20pm

On Tuesday, we will be welcoming our new Year 7 students into the College. This is an exciting time for you and your families, and the beginning of a new adventure. You have joined a special community, and we look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Due to the restrictions under the Red setting of the Covid Protection Framework, parents and caregivers will not be able to come into the College grounds with their daughters. We ask that all students be dropped off, and collected, outside the College gates on Rathgar Rd or Pinedale Place. Staff will be on duty and will direct students to their gathering space outside the Chapel.

All students, please bring your lunch and a named water bottle. **Masks are mandatory.**

New Year 8 and New Year 9 students

All **new students in Year 8 and Year 9** start on Wednesday 2nd February. Please gather outside the Chapel from 8.20am. Please bring

- Morning tea, lunch and a named water bottle. Masks are mandatory.
- Swimwear, towel and a bathing cap (can be purchased from the College office in your House colour)
- Pen and paper (not all stationery is required on this day)

Message from the PE Department

PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSON #1

Students will need their 1B4 or 1B5 exercise book and a pen/pencil for their first timetabled PE lesson. Your teacher will then go through what you will need for future lessons with the class.

Change to Pōwhiri - Thursday 3rd January

Due to the restrictions under the Red setting of the Covid Protection Framework, we are unable to hold our Pōwhiri to welcome new students, families and staff. We will instead be holding a Mihi Whakatau outside for new students and new staff only. This is disappointing for us as a community, but by minimising the numbers onsite, we are able to keep everyone safer.

New Building Construction

The demolition of some of our old classrooms has taken place over the past few weeks, in preparation for the construction of our new classroom block. Safety fences are in place around the perimeter of the building site and signage is displayed to keep our students and staff safe.

To ease congestion, students are asked to limit the use of the front entrance green doors by the Dance room when possible and use alternative entry points to all remaining buildings.

- The green doors to the right of the Pear Quad garden
- The side of Prouille Block

Entrance to Northcote and Moran Quads is still available from the doors at the rear of the College off the Citrus Quad, and the side doors by the Art room.

COVID Preparedness

In these challenging times, it is important to be well planned for any eventuality. The Omicron variant of Covid-19 is likely to have a significant impact on our communities over the coming months. As a College, we have developed robust health and safety plans at all settings of the Covid Protection Framework (Traffic Lights). Please follow this [LINK](#) to these procedures under Red setting.

Stay home if unwell

If your daughter is unwell at all, it is important that she does not come to school. Likewise, if she is identified as a close contact we will need to follow the guidance from the Ministry of Health and the Auckland Regional Health officials. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you or anyone in your home, becomes ill with COVID-19. The information will be treated sensitively and confidentially.

Isolation Room

We have good plans in place to help minimise the risks of contracting COVID-19. Any student or staff member who becomes unwell at school will be required to go home. Anyone presenting with COVID symptoms will be directed to our designated *Isolation Room* and parents/caregivers will be contacted to come and pick them up.

Teaching and Learning.

Under all traffic light settings, schools remain open for learning. Students are expected to attend and teachers will be focussing on in-class learning programmes. However, we are very aware that there may be times when students are not able to attend (either by having contracted Covid-19 or by being a close contact of a Covid-19 positive person). Teachers will be working with students to ensure access to learning resources is available online. We appreciate your support through this.

Devices

In the event we need to return to teaching and learning from home, it is important that all students have access to their own device. If your daughter does not have a device of her own, we may be able to loan one from school supplies. Please contact Mr Jellyman deputyprincipal@stdoms.ac.nz for further information.

School Transport

We have been informed that it is highly likely that some school transport services may need to be cancelled at very short notice if drivers become unavailable (either by having contracted Covid-19 or by being a close contact of a Covid-19 positive person) and it is unlikely that there will be replacement drivers readily available.

In the event that a driver is identified as a Covid-19 positive case, we will work with the Ministry of Health on the appropriate next steps, including whether the students on that bus need to self-isolate.

If you usually rely on school transport for your daughter, I encourage you to plan ahead for an alternative for transporting your daughter to and from school in the event of school transport not operating.

Masks

Masks are compulsory in all schools and students need to have access to their own mask. Masks are also compulsory on all school and public transport. Alternative face coverings such as scarves and bandanas are no longer accepted.

College Website

<https://www.stdoms.ac.nz/>

Please refer to the College website for information on start of the year, stationery requirements, locker hireage and key calendar dates.

Key calendar dates

- **Monday 31st January**

Auckland Anniversary - School Closed

- **Tuesday 1st February**

Day 1 for Year 7 students 11am - 3.20pm

- **Wednesday 2nd February**

Day 1 for New Year 8 & 9 students 8.20am arrival and gather outside the Chapel. Finish 3.20pm

Day 1 for Year 13 students – gather outside the gym

Day 2 for Year 7 – to Form Classes

- **Thursday 3rd February**

All students in - Years 7-13

Mihi whakatau for new staff and students only

- **Friday 4th February**

All students in – timetabled classes

- **Monday 7th February**

Waitangi Day observed - School Closed

- **Tuesday 8th February**

Normal school day

St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui 07/02/2022



Kia ora whānau,

Harikoa....Te Rā o Waitangi!

I hope that you are enjoying another lovely long weekend with some precious family time. Yesterday provided a great time to reflect on our Nations history and the journey we as New Zealanders have been on before and since the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Yesterday, Māori Television broadcast a range of documentaries, interviews and music to commemorate Waitangi Day. I recommend watching the docodrama on this [LINK](#) which follows an imaginary news reporter who travels back in time to cover the days leading up to the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi, on the 6th February 1840.

Last week was a great start to the school year, with all students and staff back on-site, connecting with friends, and re-engaging in their learning programmes. The buzz around the grounds is positive, joyful and a delight to hear.

After our reconnection day on Thursday, all students began their timetabled learning programmes on Friday. For our youngest students this will be a big change from what they are used to. Rest assured that they are all well supported and this new pattern of leaning will become easier each day.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

We continue to navigate our way through the restrictions that come with the settings of the Red Traffic Light system. Your support with this is very much appreciated. All students are following the rules of mask wearing, which is no small ask in this very warm weather. In addition to vaccination, mask wearing remains our best defence at this time. We are currently working on our continuity plan to respond to a number of possible scenarios that may present at any time. These include; a positive case identified in our College, major staff shortages due to illness or self isolation etc. The aim will continue to be provision of onsite learning for all students, however we are fully prepared to return to online/distance learning if this is necessary.

Sports & Extra/Co-curricular Activities

Our extra curricular and sports programmes at St Doms have always encouraged our students to become involved in the wider life of the College. We want to continue to provide inclusive activities for as many students as possible. Many external providers and many interschool and community events however, require students to be fully vaccinated to participate. This includes popular venues such as Te Pai Netball Centre. Netball trials will be taking place over the next few weeks (please see dates below) and students aged 12 and over will need to show proof of vaccination. More information will become available and will be shared over the next few days as to how we will be asking for proof of vaccination.

Mihi Whakatau

On Thursday we held two Mihi Whakatau to welcome our new students and staff into our Dominican whānau. Although, due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to invite parents and caregivers this year, it was still a lovely celebration for all involved.

We look forward to many years ahead, walking alongside these fabulous young people.

Thank you to Whaea Hera, our Whānau class, our Student Leaders, and all who helped in the organisation.



Key calendar dates

TERM 1 WEEK 3

Monday 7th February-Week B Timetable

- *Waitangi Day – Observed School Closed*

Tuesday 8th February

- *All students in – timetabled classes Week B*

Friday 11th February

- *Year 9 and 10 Athletics In-school event (details to come)*

TERM 1 WEEK 4

Monday 14th February-Week A Timetable

- *Year 7 Netball Trials (and 14th, 21st, 28th Feb as required)
3.30pm – 5.30pm*

Tuesday 15th February

- *Year 8 Netball Trials (and 15th, 22nd Feb and 1st March as required)
3.30pm – 5.30pm*

Wednesday 16th February

- *Year 9 Netball Trials (and 16th, 23^d Feb and 2nd March as required)
3.30pm – 5.30pm*

Thursday 17th February

- *Year 10 Netball Trials (and 17th, 24th Feb and 3^d March as required)
3.30pm – 5.30pm*

Friday 18th February

- *Year 11,12 and 13 Athletics In-school event (details to come)*
- *Senior Netball Trials – Years 11-13 (and 18th, 25th Feb and 4th March as required)
3.30pm – 5.30pm*

Enjoy the rest of your weekend, whānau

Ngā manaakitanga,

Anna Swann

AND SUDDENLY
YOU **KNOW**
IT'S TIME TO
START
SOMETHING
NEW AND
TRUST THE
MAGIC OF
BEGINNINGS

— Meister Eckhart

St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui 13/02/2022



Kia ora whānau,

We had another great week last week, with students and staff well into the routines of their learning programmes. Our newest students look more comfortable and at home in their new environment, navigating the challenges of College life. Thank you for all that you are doing to support them in their journey.

Years 9 & 10 House Sports Day

Due to having to cancel Athletics Day this term, our Sports Department have organised fun House Sports Days for our Year 9-13 students. (Year 7&8 have their Athletics Day in Term 4).

On Friday it was the turn of our Year 9 & 10 students. Each year group participated in fun and competitive activities gaining points for their Houses. There was plenty of laughter, a bit of rain and a lot of noise!

Thank you to our PE and Sports Departments, and our student Sports and House Leaders for their organisation and determination to keep our school spirit alive and well, even in these challenging times.

This coming week on Friday our Year 11, 12 & 13 students will have their day (with their own Year Level). Year 11-13 students may come to school in their House colours on this day.





Second Hand Uniform

If you require any second hand uniform items, please phone the office to speak with Mrs Vicki Jones in Reception. Mrs Jones is happy to gather uniform pieces and bring them downstairs for you to collect and pay for by eftpos. If you have any uniform items you wish to donate to the College please let us know.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Please be reminded that if you are picking up or dropping off your daughter to school, that this must be done outside the College on Rathgar Rd and/or Pinedale Place. There are many buses that enter and exit the driveway on Rathgar Rd, and the car park on Pinedale Place is for staff cars only.

Netball Trials & Vaccination Status

Netball trials begin this week (see dates and times below).

Vaccination passes will need to be sighted prior to taking the court. If your daughter is yet to have her vaccination due to her age, or she is awaiting her second vaccination, please provide a letter addressed to me for our records. You can contact me to discuss any queries you may have in this regard.

Great news....

Congratulations to Ronelle Moolman (8TS) who received the award for *Diver of the Year 2021* in her category at her delayed prizegiving this weekend. Well done Ronelle! We are very proud of your achievements in diving.

If you have any out of school sports achievements to share, please send through to Mrs Jodi Smith in the Sports Department, so we can share in the celebrations.

jsmith@stdoms.ac.nz or sports@stdoms.ac.nz



Current COVID situation at St Doms

Thank you for the messages of support for the College and our affected family. As you will be aware from the rise in cases across the country, COVID appears to be finding its way into many communities.

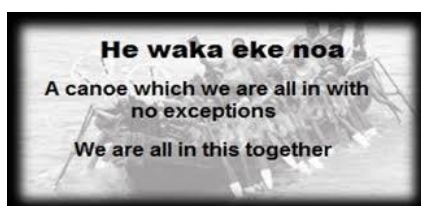
We continue to follow all health and safety requirements set by the Ministry of Health. In addition to vaccination, mask wearing indoors remains one of our best defences in school settings, and I am proud to say that our students are excellent in their mask wearing in class. Thank you for what you are doing to emphasise the importance of this with your daughters.

We will continue to monitor any current or new reported cases and close contacts, and keep you informed as best as possible.

Enjoy the rest of your weekend whānau.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Anna Swann



Key calendar dates

TERM 1 WEEK 4

Monday 14th February-Week A Timetable

- *Year 7 Netball Trials (and 14th, 21st, 28th Feb as required)*
3.30pm – 5.30pm

Tuesday 15th February

- *Year 8 Netball Trials (15th, 22nd Feb and 1st March as required)*
3.30pm – 5.30pm

Wednesday 16th February

- *Year 9 Netball Trials (16th, 23rd Feb and 2nd March as required)*
3.30pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 17th February

- *Year 10 Netball Trials (17th, 24th Feb and 3rd March as required)*
3.30pm – 5.30pm

Friday 18th February

- *Year 11,12 and 13 Athletics In-school event*
- *Senior Netball Trials – Years 11-13 (18th, 25th Feb and 4th March as required)*
3.30pm – 5.30pm

St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui 20/02/2022



Kia ora whānau,

I hope you are enjoying a great weekend.

Current COVID situation at St Doms

Our current cases at the College have reported that they are coping well. Symptoms have been relatively mild and we look forward to these students returning to school as soon as they have recovered.

Close Contacts for all current cases will return to school following the required isolation period and negative test results.

With high numbers of testing happening in the community, there have been some delays in test results being returned. Please continue to monitor your own health and that of your family. If any symptoms present at all please get tested and stay home until a negative result is returned and all symptoms have gone.

Planning Ahead

In the event that we have too many staff away from school to be able to provide supervision/onsite learning at school, we may require different year levels to stay home and learn online. This may be needed at short notice so I would like you to prepare for that eventuality, should it need to happen.

In the event we need a Year Level to stay home and learn online for a period of time, this is the order that this will happen:

- Year 10
- Year 11
- Year 12 and Year 13

We will endeavour to give as much notice as possible if we do require a year level to stay home for a day or more at a time.

Senior Sports Day

Another great day was had on Friday at our Senior Sports Day. Years 11, 12 and 13 enjoyed competing in their Year Level Houses in a range of fun games and activities out in the sunshine.

It was a joy to watch, and listen to, with everyone taking part and cheering their Houses on.

Huge thanks yet again to our Sports and PE Departments and all our student leaders. A great day had by all!





Health and Safety around the College

We have received complaints from our neighbours about cars parking over their driveway at peak times. Please respect the parking regulations when picking up and dropping off your daughters.

Polyfest 2022

Due to the changes in how Polyfest will be run this year, and with us continuing to prioritise the health, safety and wellbeing of our community, we will not be participating in Polyfest this year. The organisers have decided to run an online event this year with no spectators or audience permitted.

Polyfest has always been a community event, with parents, whānau and volunteers coming onsite to tutor and teach multi year level cultural groups for many weeks heading up to the four day event in Manukau. We are not able to run this within our current Red settings without compromising our health and safety measures.

I understand that this will be disappointing for many of our students. We will be looking to organise an in-school cultural evening later in the year.

School Buses

As you may be aware, there have been some problems this past week with school buses arriving late for pick up in both the morning and afternoon. There have also been issues with windows and air conditioning. We have passed these concerns on to the bus company that run these routes.

If you would like to communicate your concerns directly with the bus company, please follow this link for the contact information <https://www.ritchies.co.nz/west-auckland/>

Great News!

Congratulations to Cassidy Foster and Mackenzie Leighton (Year 10) who both qualified as lifeguards recently.

They had to sit a theory exam, complete a 400m swim, a CPR and First Aid course, a 200m run swim run and a tube rescue. They will now be on Patrol at North Piha Surf Club for the rest of the Summer. Well done girls! An awesome achievement!

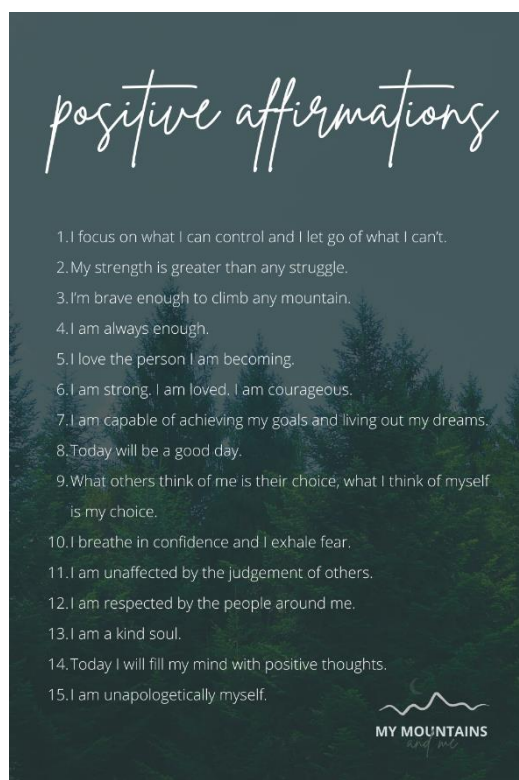


In this ever-changing world, each of us is coping with our own pressures and challenges. As we navigate this space in time, our faith in God, in each other and in ourselves needs to be continually cared for and nurtured. Strength can be found in our faith, in our own being, and in the kindness and actions of others.

Enjoy your Sunday whānau.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Anna Swann



Key calendar dates

TERM 1 WEEK 4

Monday 21st February-Week B Timetable

- *Year 7 Netball Trials (and 28th Feb as required)*
3.30pm – 5.30pm

Tuesday 22nd February

- *Year 8 Netball Trials (and 1st March as required)*
3.30pm – 5.30pm

Wednesday 23rd February

- *Paid Union Meeting (school finishes at 1pm for Years 9-13)*
- *Year 9 Netball Trials (and 2nd March as required)*
1.30pm – 3.20pm

Thursday 24th February

- *Year 10 Netball Trials (and 3rd March as required)*
3.30pm – 5.30pm

Friday 25th February

- *Senior Netball Trials – Years 11-13 (and 4th March as required)*
3.30pm – 5.30pm